

In the Specification:

Please amend the following paragraphs as indicated.

[24] According to equation (3) above, increasing the effective distance (a function of the distances **D1** and **D2**) between the signal trace **20** and the conductive plane **60** increases the impedance **Zo** of the transmission path. Therefore, by selecting the width **66** and orientation of the continuous opening **62**, a PCB designer can advantageously select an impedance **Zo** that is relatively independent of the thickness of the insulation layer **18**. Specifically, the impedance **Zo** is selected for a given width **66** of the trace **20** by selecting the opening width [[**66**]]**S**, and the orientation of a longitudinal centerline of the trace **20** relative to a longitudinal centerline of the continuous opening **62**. Per equation (3), making the trace **20** wider lowers the transmission-path impedance, and making the opening width **66** wider increases the transmission-path impedance.

[32] As with the PCB **50** of **FIG. 2**, the width **127** may be less, equal to, or greater than the width **S** of the signal trace **20**. Further, a longitudinal centerline of the width **127** may or may not coincide with a longitudinal centerline of the trace width **S**. In an alternative embodiment, another conductive plane such as plane **30** can also have a continuous (not shown) opening aligned with the signal trace **20**. Also, as with the PCB **50**, optional bridging conductors such as conductors **129** and **130** may be formed across the openings **122** and **124** by leaving portions of the conductive plane **110** when otherwise vacating the continuous openings **122** and **124**.

[34] Further, as with the PCB **50** of **FIG. 2** and as discussed above, the PCB **100** may include one or more bridging conductors **129** and **130** across the openings **122** and **124** to conduct cross-currents.